The Shakerite Literary Supplement

1st Year, No. 1——— Shaker Heights High School, Shaker Heights, Ohio ——— January 31, 1969

The Supplement is a collection of literary essays, reviews, and commentaries. The editors hope that this publication will develop into a regular *Shakerite* feature.

Dissidents Denounce Daley, Fashion Tasteless Exhibit

by Freda Levenson

A collection of sloppy, angry collages, big pictures, and other various vulgarities is being displayed, for a noble cause, at the Dobama Theatre Gallery.

MOTHERWELL, Newman, Stella, Rosenquist, and Oldenburg are among the "50 of the best American painters and sculptors" who contributed their works to the "Richard J. Daley" Benefit Art Show for the Chicago Legal Defense Fund.

The horror and outrage of these artists at the Chicago convention eruptions is understood; but the burst of energy that created their meaningless and often obscene works could have been better channeled. The show is fulfilling a purpose in that admission money goes to the defense fund, but better craftsmanship and a more dignified attitude could have added to the show's effectiveness as a protest.

A COLLECTION of creations by famous artists does not necessarily constitute an art show. Deep-felt objections to Mayor Daley and utter revulsion at his police do not find expression—are even betrayed—in these visual dirty jokes, which are about as effective a protest and as artistically sound as public lavatory graffiti. People should be moved, not to snicker at, but to condemn Daley.

Among the less offensive works was Rosenquist's "Tattered Image"—a pig-pink picture of Daley's pudgy face painted on strips of plastic, meant to be punched. Red Grooms contributed papier-mache "Miss Napalm." There were pseudo-architectural sketches for Oldenburg's mock monument to Daley—a monstrous stone sculpture of his decapitated head on a platter.

Editress Quotes Quotes Showing *Shakerite's* Syntaxless Situation

Dear Sir,

As an humble member of your editorial staff, whose only desire is to live and die, inconspicuously, of course, for this school's award-winning newspaper, I fear that I must lodge a small complaint. For several issues now, the editors have been forced to edit extensively the articles produced by the reporters. While I name no names, I should like to quote briefly from a few of our less recent contributions.

"For the police brutality in Chicago went deeper than the nationally emphasized conflicts in the streets was to stay out of the clutches of the vultures who, orginally created to protect us, has become twisted by a corrupt political power structure into an invading army." (#1)

"They are exploring the dilemma by spending approximately equal time studying each of the three subjects of study: Politics and Government, Sociology, and Economics as these subjects relate to the overall theme." (#2)

"Entertainment assemblies will include a jazz session, a presentation by the Cleveland Playhouse, and hopefully the production of a group of brilliant Negro students who present the Negro's feeling about himself, the world, and his history in a poetic drama." (#3)

MY DEAR SIR, these incredible quotations were the only semi-coherent ones to be found in these three articles. These writers completely exemplify the typical *Shakerite* reporter. And yet, sir, it cannot be said that these paragons are STUPID, for two of them are AP English dropouts, and I myself have heard the third utter an entire English sentence which contained only one glaring error.

I submit to you, fearless leader, that perhaps we unkindly have been handing out assignments which are simply too difficult for our reporters. We have been expecting too much. Merely because the majority of our people are juniors and seniors, and have attended English classes for approximately a dozen years, we have little right to assume that at the ages of sixteen, seventeen, and eighteen they are capable of functioning as competent, articulate human beings. Therefore, it is the considered opinion of this editor that we have three solutions open to us.

1) We may assign the reporters such uncomplicated tasks as taking copy to the printers, while the cartoonists write the articles.

2) We could institute a costly indoctrination program, lasting up to eighteen months, during which time we instruct the prospective reporters in the rudiments of the English language, the elements of style, and the best way to get a news story.

3) We could

a. kill them

b. commit suicide

MY VERY DEAR sir, surely you must not let continue what has taken place for the last two years. I refer, of course, to the indifference with which *Shakerite* reporters regard their obligation to the newspaper. They are tardy to meetings, if they de-

(Continued on page 4, col. 1)

Pre-Final Reading Period Needed For Thorough Examination Review

by Bill Ratnoff

Secondary schools, like universities, concern themselves with training students to educate themselves. Their legitimate purpose is preparing students to discipline themselves to learn independently. Shaker High is well above the mean in fulfilling this role, but it fails to communicate the true seriousness of learning how to educate oneself.

THE EMPHASIS in this school on picayune superficialities, like dress, attendance, and restriction of the use of the library, gives the student the faulty impression that such things as learning to read and write are only incidental to education.

One happy way to end this confusion of purpose and to convey to the students the seriousness of schoolwork would be the institution of a reading period of two or more days before semester examination — at first, perhaps, only for seniors. Similar programs enjoy success at many universities, giving students time to study without the pressure of classwork. Struggling students might be required to meet with their teachers, while others might use the time to study independently for finals.

THE SCHOOL Board should instigate the change now. Shaker presently surpasses the state requirement of 180 school days by four. By eliminating classes Thursday and Friday the week before examinations, the Board would still meet state requirements.

If the value in final examinations is the learning they promote, the education is the result of conscientious, time-consuming preparation, not frenzied cramming. In providing the reading period, the school system would demonstrate its genuine belief in this doctrine. The institution of the reading period is a necessary and pragmatic step that the school system can readily take—this year—to begin the shift of emphasis to that of true, serious education.

Cooley Wins Heart-to-Heart Match; Barnard Adds, "Aorta Done Better!"

by Jim Siegelman

Since December, 1967 mankind has averaged better than one human heart transplant each week. Many of the great moral problems created by this revolutionary technique have been disregarded or overlooked in the name of scientific progress, as the surgeon assumes the double role of life-saver and life-taker. As man seeks new sources of diversion and amusement, it is not impossible that his talent for exploiting commercial potential will rear a new form of bizarre entertainment. . . .

"**HELLO SPORTS** fans and welcome to MT Radio's Medical Transplant of the week. It's a beautiful day here at Municipal Hospital in Capetown, the transplant capital of the world, and today's operation has the world's top two transplant teams confronting one another. The home team, led by Captain Christmas Barnyard (record 3-1), faces the American team, led by Captain Benton Dooley (record 1-2-1). We've got a capacity crowd on hand today, eager to see this operation, dubbed a life-or-death transplant for both teams. Dr. Barnheart, a veteran from the Big Groote, is favored over Dr. Drooley, a rookie from Houston, Texas. Dr. Trrooley won the toss and has elected to receive at the far end of the operating room.

"And here come da donor! In his final year at Apartheid Community College, Art Terry is the definite underdog here today. He's being wheeled across the floor now, accompanied by the Capetown Blood Donors and Marching Band. The heart-life

(Continued on page 4, col. 1)

Drug Obsession Is Taking Shaker; Strong Rule Enforcement Needed

by Charles Burhan

Shaker is in the middle of a revolution. The insurgents take those speedy little tablets that help one to turn on. The rebels also include long-term users, pushers, user-pushers, and experimenters. The first and third groups participate to relieve tension, or to have their revolt serve as a symbolic sign of their displeasure with society. The second group is simply out to make a high profit in an illegal field. The last group, however, demands careful scrutiny. The experimenters are often intelligent people with a clinical attitude. Their motives are the noblest, satisfaction of curiosity by first-hand observation. Their case is also the saddest, for they, like the others, face prison, probation, mental institutions, psychological addiction, and the morgue.

NO ONE article or series of articles can stop would-be insurgents. This article is, therefore, a request for a powerful program on drugs. The counter-revolution ought to include private counseling, group discussions, and lectures extending back to the eighth grade. In the hope of prevention, both sides could argue the moral, legal, and physical points, with doctors and lawyers. For the transgressors, a harsh school code directed by a judicious student-faculty board could be set up. The success of the program would depend upon the determination of both the students and the faculty to use the prevention-enforcement program. The major roadblocks are apathy and image consciousness, which I hope will yield to reality. The users may have definite moral, historical, and scientific points to their case, but in view of a harsh program's penalties, the insurgents may yield to practicality.

Scientists Attempt the Impossible In Sharp But Accurate Swift Satire

by Donna Brown

Next to politicians, Jonathan Swift most enjoyed ridiculing scientists. In *Gulliver's Travels*, Lemuel Gulliver sojourns briefly on the flying island of Laputa, which soars above the land of Balnibarbi. For once, the oft-mistreated traveller meets with no spectacular adventure. He is ignored. The island's inhabitants are so absorbed in mathematics and astronomy that they require servants to awaken them from their reveries and to remind them to eat and speak. The capital of Balnibarbi, Lagado, is dominated by a Grand Academy, whose tenants devote their lives to utterly useless or impossible endeavors.

SWIFT'S SATIRE on these individuals seems vicious, yet it does have quite substantial historic and scientific bases. Swift was an erudite writer; he did not attack particular institutions without a basis of fact. The sarcasm he directs at government in the Lilliput segment refers to political practices in existence at his time. Likewise, it is possible to find reasons for Swift's abuse of scientists.

Scientific interest and knowledge were increasing rapidly in Swift's time, the beginning of the eighteenth century. But the general attitude of laymen was one of scorn for the apparent uselessness of scientific and mathematical theories. From this attitude stems Swift's ridicule of the Laputian theoreticians. They could measure Gulliver with precision, but were unable to make him a decent suit of clothes. Their dwellings were miserably constructed because they despised practical geometry as "vulgar and mechanic."

THE PROFESSORS at the Grand Academy of Lagado were engaged in scientific endeavors which they claimed would eventually lead to a utopian society. Incurable optimists, they dismissed as irrelevant the fact that they were making no progress whatever, and they persisted in hundreds of absurd endeavors.

Swift did not risk stretching the imagination of his readers. Rather, he took actual experiments reported in *Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society*, the leading scientific journal at that time, and reduced them to nonsense. This extensive use of fact, unknown to most modern readers, is what makes his satire particularly devastating.

ONE LAGADOAN scientist was attempting to teach blind men to feel color with their fingers. The source of this idea was Robert Boyle, who recounted, and believed, a story of an Italian doctor, who claimed this was possible, providing the attempt was made on an empty stomach. It is possible that Swift was also ridiculing Newton's corpuscular, or particle theory of light. If, as this theory implies, light is composed of matter particles, it should also be tangible.

Another report by Boyle was responsible for Swift's caricature of the chemist who concentrated his efforts on changing ice into gunpowder. This attempt was merely an extension of Boyle's study of thermodynamics, particularly his observation that water frozen in glass tubes causes the tubes to shatter.

AGRICULTURALISTS AT the Academy were convinced that land could be sown profitably with chaff. Swift knew that English botanists had often toyed with the idea, and that they had gone one step farther, suggesting that fields be manured with sand. Another endeavor Swift justifiably ridiculed was the Lagadoan attempt to reduce human excrement to its original food. A disgusting thought, but Rabelais had it first.

The humor in "Voyage to Laputa", then, lies not in Swift's vivid imagination, though he had one, but in his ability to collect facts which lent themselves to a complete *reductio ad absurdum*.

Blood, Sweat and Tears Offers Brassy Wedding of Rock, Jazz

by Ellen Stavitsky

"Rebirth, regeneration, and triumph. Blood, Sweat and Tears. Nine musicians—vital and diverse. Their rich musical tapestries will stun you. Brash and exciting, their music is a wedding of rock and jazz."

BLOOD, SWEAT and Tears, as stated on the cover of their second album, have experienced a rebirth. Lead vocalist Al Kooper has left for greener pastures, such as Super Session, several of the group's musicians have come and gone, but the big band-electric sound still remains. The second album is a strange hodgepodge of songs, sounds, and moods. There are gentle contemporary ballads, symphonies, folk songs, blues, and typical "heavy" Blood, Sweat and Tears songs.

The album begins and ends with "Variations on a Theme by Eric Satie," a beautifully gentle symphony which the group plays in its original form before adapting it to the familiar brassy Blood, Sweat and Tears style. David Clayton-Thomas, the new vocalist, excels in "Smiling Phases," a hard-hitting Traffic song. Steve Katz sings the pretty ballad "Sometimes in Winter" in the tradition of Tom Rush.

BY ADDING A honky-tonk piano and a rhythm reminiscent of a cowboy's loping gait, the group has given a new western flavor to the Peter, Paul, and Mary folk song "And When I Die." Probably the most beautiful song on the album is the slow-moving blues of the old Billie Holiday song "God Bless the Child." In "Blues—Part II" there are traces of Janis Joplin, "Sunshine of Your Love" and "Spoonful" by the Cream, and plenty of good jazz instrumentation.

Although their first album contains more original work, the second Blood, Sweat and Tears album is an exciting and beautiful example of modern music with diverse influences.

Editress Quotes

(Continued from page 1)

cide to appear at all. They rarely meet deadlines. Their information is frequently inaccurate. Their articles are filled with elementary errors of grammar, usage, and punctuation. Their writing styles are uniformly deplorable. They falsify their word limits, so that *Shakerite* editors must rewrite articles in order that they no longer run over; or, conversely, fail to meet the required minimum. Our reporters have never considered improving their work themselves, **before** the deadline. Their only enthusiasm centers on the fact that next year they may themselves be editors, which, if I may say so, is a most refreshing thought.

Please do not think for a moment, sir, that I or any other member of your editorial staff does not love and cherish our reporters as only an editor can. If our patience does evaporate at times, it must be remembered that we are only human. We do understand our reporters. We look upon them as untrustworthy, delinquent, recalcitrant, backward, incorrigible willful, disobedient, heedless, inconsiderate, and, at times, downright repulsive, but nevertheless lovable children. From children one can expect so much. Our problem, long-suffering sir, is that we are running a newspaper, not a nursery school.

ONE LAST WORD, sir, before I conclude. It is our pleasure, as well as our duty, to serve you and this newspaper while we have breath left in our bodies. However, the latter state will not long endure if we are constantly compelled to call down imprecations and maledictions dire upon the heads of these reporters. If there is anything you, or your Superior, can do to alleviate this grievous situation, you will win the everlasting devotion of your moribund editorial staff. *Fiat Justitia, Ruat Caelum.*

Sincerely,
Julianne Berger

Cooley Wins

(Continued from page 2)

machine is nearing the zero mark now, and when Terry crosses the line, Dr. Crooley will attempt the conversion.

"**THE CENTER NURSE** is preparing the scalpel. Dr. Cooley takes the handoff. He cuts left . . . swings right . . . cuts back . . . and he's stopped at the third rib line. What a beautiful move! The nurse readies the scalpel again, and Chooley takes the snap. He inches back . . . finds a hole . . . AND HE'S RAMMING RIGHT UP THE MIDDLE! He's near his goal now, and the heart is in the clear. Booley gets ready to pass the heart to his receiver downfield. He fakes . . . lets it fly . . . and it . . . is . . . INTERCEPTED BY BARNLARD! Now, to get closer to the action, let's switch to the operating table for the play by play from the recipient, Willy Jumpanski. Take it, Willy!"

Bee-deep, Bee-deep. "This is Willy Jumpanski on the operating table, and I'm right in the middle of the action." Bee-deep, bee-deep. "The sound coming over your sets is my heart-beat, which is being monitored by a Wilson-Spalding oscilloscope." Bee-deep, bee-deep. "Even general anesthetic can't calm the great excitement I feel at today's thrilling transplant." Bee-deep, bee-deep. "The crowd is mobbing Dr. Barncard after his fantastic interception, and he's trying to make his way over to my side of the operating room." Bee-deep, bee-deep. "He's posing for pictures now and waving to the crowd. Now Dr. Darnhard is preparing to make the first incision." Bee-deeep. . . .

"**WE'RE BACK IN** the control booth now following this incredible upset victory by Dr. Ghouley. There won't be a post-game interview today, but we'll be back with the post-mortem wrap-up right after this message."

PEACE NOW!! dick abuza

RELEVANCY LATER!! billy ginn

Have Your Dads
Support the
DADS' CLUB

Fender Piggyback Amp.
Electric Guitar
Like new, ½ original price
464-0755

We like Youngsters!
And youngsters like
Jr. House of Milwaukee
as seen in Seventeen
and
HATHAWAY Shaker Square

FOR YOUR PARTY NEEDS
—CALL—
PIONEER BEVERAGES
LO 1-8088 20140 Van Aken
Delivery Service

Students Learn Fashion
at
MY DARLING DAUGHTER
Exclusive Fashions for Young Girls and Juniors
20300 Chagrin Shaker Hts. WY 1-1690

The Oxford Shop
At Van Aken Center